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THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

Growing business

Medical marijuana rules changed

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Carter upcycles what he finds

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ENTERTAINMENT The show goes on

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — Rob Herjavec remembers the excitement of being a child and spending Saturday night at the drive-in with his family.

"I've been coming since I was a kid. It's nice to sit outside with the family under the stars," he said.

The Niagara Falls resident carried on the tradition Saturday night at the Niagara's only drive-in, the Can-View Drive-In on Hwy. 20, near Hwy. 406.



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Pictured from left, Rob Herjavec and his children, Sophia, 3, Niko 7, Luka 5, and wife Monica take in a movie at the Can-View Drive-In Saturday night.

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Michael Smith
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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MEDICAL MARIJUANA: Government changes rules

Pot a growing business

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Marijuana is his medicine.

Without it, he finds it hard to function.

The 38-year-old operations analyst from Welland, who asked that his name not be used, has struggled with severe anxiety and depression since he was a teenager.

Pot, he said, is the only thing that provides relief.

He has used several different medications to try to control his condition, including Ativan, but found that left his mind in a fog.

"I have a job where I need to think and work together a conversation and I think it being all stoned," he said.

His doctor advised him to eat up to five grams of marijuana a day to help ease his anxiety and depression.

"I find the marijuana doesn't fog the brain," he said. "It has the same calming qualities, but can still get you in a mood if you sit at work. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have a job today. It has really allowed me to be a functioning member of society."

But he may not be able to afford it for long.

Currently, a grower licensed by Health Canada sells medical marijuana for \$1 a gram, but by April 2014 large-scale legal commercial marijuana grow-ops could set up shop in Niagara and charge \$8 to \$10 a gram.

The Welland man doesn't think he'll be able to afford it and said he will have to try getting it covered under his medical benefits or will buy it on the street when he can.

Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announced new regulations for the distribution of medical marijuana in early June that will make pot farming a legitimate industry and wipe out home-grow operations.

The federal government introduced the medical marijuana program in 2001 and, at the time, there were fewer than 500 people across Canada growing pot in their homes for medical

use.

Now there are more than 30,000 people authorized to grow weed, according to Health Canada.

A news release from the agency said the increase had "unintended consequences for public health, safety and security as a result of allowing individuals to produce marijuana in their homes."

Under the new regulations, production can no longer take place in homes, but in commercial facilities to beef up public safety.

Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson, until recently the minister of justice-attorney general of Canada, said in an e-mail that medical marijuana distribution needs to be better controlled to ensure public safety.

"Our approach balances patient access with public safety. Unfortunately, the system was being abused, and that was having a real impact on public safety. Our government will continue to protect the public's safety if necessary," he said.

Licensed producers will have to comply with regulations for quality control standards, maintain comprehensive records, inventories of marijuana, and security system to protect against selling it illegally.

Growers must send marijuana to registered clients through a secure courier, meaning storefronts or retail outlets are not allowed.

Grow-ops must employ a quality assurance worker with "training, experience and technical knowledge."

Plans must be in place for the site to have restricted access areas, including all areas where a licensed activity is conducted with marijuana.

They must have around-the-clock video-surveillance and employees must have valid security clearance issued by the Ministry of Public Safety.

Both in home and commercial sites will operate until March 31, 2014. After that, Health Canada will no longer produce and distribute marijuana for medical



Supplied photo

Federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announced new regulations for the distribution of medical marijuana in early June that will make pot farming a legitimate industry and wipe out home-grow operations.

purposes.

Port Colborne Ward 4 coun. Barb Buttars said she's had a few constituents complain about neighbours who may be applying to grow medical marijuana, but said they don't know what to do about it if the federal government issue the licence.

"We've asked staff for a report, so we can have the information about the regulations and what we should and shouldn't be doing and how this is going to affect the municipality. We don't know what to expect it back shortly," she said.

She said dealing with pot farms is new territory for municipalities.

"It's legal," she said. "The zoning is appropriate and

(they are) not breaking any rules in doing this."

But Niagara Regional Police and local fire departments don't know how they will deal with the legal grow operations.

NRPS Det. Dave Maniak of the special gangs and growth unit said specific regulations were sent to his office late July, but they haven't had time to go through it in depth.

He said people are already applying to own the commercial businesses.

"It's my understanding as part of the application process, they have to go to specific locations they have to make notifications to police, municipality and fire," he said. "A handful of people we are aware of to date have made the application."

He said legal grow operations were spread throughout the region, and despite the fact he's happy pot won't continue to be grown in people's home, he's anxious to find out more about the protocols for inspection.

Port Colborne fire prevention officer Mike Bendia said he's heard rumors that Port Colborne residents may have applied, but couldn't confirm who.

He also said fire departments may not have anything to do with the commercial grow operation because if the government deems them agricultural operations it's no longer their realm.

"The fire code exempts farm properties because

of the nature of what they do," he said. "A farm building with not more than one person during normal use and other areas are exempt from the requirements."

Niagara Falls fire Chief Len Smith said he's confident that properties will be seen as commercial because despite the agricultural nature of the business — it's exactly that — a business.

"They will have to comply with electrical requirements and safety to a certain standard," he said. "If it's deemed to be commercial or agricultural — it's agricultural."

"We're hoping its deemed commercial."

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■ NEWFOUNDLAND PONIES: Once nearly extinct

Ponies important in Canadian history

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Callie and Chanel are members of a once dying breed.

The three-year-old Newfoundland ponies are two of the less than 400 left in the world.

When Rose Cook and Laura Spies heard the plight of the ponies, they had to help.

After a long search, they bought the pair in May and hauled them to Port Colborne from Collingwood, Ont., to raise awareness about the pony and its history.

"They were part of our heritage," Cook said. "People should know more about that and it isn't right what was done to them in Newfoundland."

The ponies originated on the British Isles and were sent to Canada with early settlers. They tilled the fields, pulled carts in mines and hauled fishing lines, kelp or hay.

After industrialization they were set free and eventually residents complained the animals were eating their crops and destroying them.

The ponies were rounded up in droves and taken to slaughter houses until their populations were so decimated, they were almost

extinct.

Equine breeders in Ontario rescued some and the Canadian government established experimental farms to breed them.

"I have such great personalities," Spies said. "They are all around great ponies. They are hard workers and they are very social. Children used to play with them after they finished their work. The people who settled with them wouldn't have survived without them."

They will be at the Marshdale Heritage Festival from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, Niagara Regional Fair on Aug. 30, Niagara Falls on Aug. 15, Wainfleet Fair from Sept. 20 to 22 and the Ancaster Fair Sept. 19 to 22 and possibly the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto from Nov. 4 to 10.

Fair visitors will be able to pet the ponies and possibly feed them treats.

The Newfoundland pony is a mix of many different breeds and is not yet considered a breed of its own. It is a type of pony, but many breeders, clubs and

owners, including Spies and Cook hope that with the summer for 30 years in the Thorold, Forrest said being in the allure of the drive-in hasn't faded, even though some people think it has.

Forrest, who has independently owned drive-ins for many people, called in manager Steve Forrest said. He called watching a movie at a drive-in a family activity that carries with it a sense of nostalgia for adults remembering a simpler time.

"I hope we've been able to carry on that tradition. Please bring your children with you from the van by us father after seeing a movie at the drive-in, and doing it for their own kids when they are older."

The outdoor theatre has been a popular activity during evenings and weekends in

the Thorold for 30 years in the drive-in, Forrest said being in the movie business isn't easy because the facility doesn't generate much money.

Last spring, the Thorold drive-in switched from 35 mm film to an all-digital format. The change came with a \$500,000 price tag for the drive-in. Although he isn't sure, Forrest said he believes if not all, most theatres, will be required to go digital by the end of next year.

"The drive-in's revenue is generated during July and August when students aren't in school."

Forrest said there is an incentive program offered through movie studios that will

give portions of the funds back to movie theatres over the next decade for upgrading from film to digital.

"Going digital is cheaper than film and because the studios are saving so much money. It remains yet to be seen how much anyone will get back," he said.

The benefit to going digital are noticeable because movies shot digitally have a clear, brighter picture with no cracks, or pops and the images don't move when you look at them.

But sometimes Forrest misses having to thread a film onto a reel. As a film projectionist required a licence to properly be educated in how to run projectors and handle film.

"I knew what they (projectors) sounded like, I knew what they smelled like and I could instantly tell if something wasn't working right."

But a lot has changed with the digital age. Forrest said, and admitted some of his staff who have grown up with technology are better equipped to handle a malfunction with a DVD player.

"Now being digital, the younger staff are more qualified to be up there than me."

As long as the drive-in continues to be a success, Forrest said the film will continue to roll onto the screen, even if it's in a different format.

Now, pass the popcorn.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Rose Cook will display her rare Newfoundland pony, Callie at fairs throughout Niagara this fall along with partner, Laura Spies and her Newfoundland pony Chanel.

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Twitter: @VinceyG

MOVIES

Going to drive-in a tradition for most families

FROM PAGE 1

With his three youngsters, Niko, 7, Lila, 5, Sophia, 3, and his wife Monica, Herjavec spent the evening minutes alone on popcorn and took in a viewing of *The Smurfs 2*.

With the hatch open on the back of their van, the Herjavecs rested comfortably in their pajamas and wrapped in blankets in the crisp summer night.

"I think being able to stay up late is a big part of the excitement for the kids, especially when their bedtime is 8 p.m.," Rob Herjavec said of his children's excitement.

Although Herjavec has been coming to the drive-in at least

once a year since he was a child, this past weekend was the first time he brought his children.

Going to the drive-in is a tradition for many people, called in manager Steve Forrest said. He called watching a movie at a drive-in a family activity that carries with it a sense of nostalgia for adults remembering a simpler time.

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■ ourview

Tories' woes might tempt election call

The perfect election storm is brewing. Take internal conflict within the Progressive Conservative party. Add a Tory contempt motion that could cause gridlock when the legislature returns next month.

Throw in a Liberal Party smarting from losing three seats in byelections and who are nervously watching the NDP under Andrea Horwath steadily grow in popularity.

It could mean we go to the polls sooner rather than later.

Premier Kathleen Wynne could ask Lt.-Gov. David Onley to disperse the legislature, saying the Tory tactics are making the province ungovernable. The Liberals could ambush the PCs while they're still in session, forcing a vote.

Wynne dismissed election speculation last week.

Tory Leader Tim Hudak is facing a revolt within, although I'm hearing the leadership review is unlikely to get support from the party's executive. Key caucus members such as Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott and Thornhill's Peter Shurman are speaking out on the folly of creating schisms within the party right now.

Shurman told me his dissident would be like "taking a gun and aiming at your foot."

I don't think many of a dozen or so party members decide you're going to hold a leadership vote at a time when there's an imminent election," he said.

Elliot says while people are disappointed in the byelection outcomes, the party needs to rally behind Hudak.

"We need to make sure we're ready for the next election with a strong and united team," she said.

Even Carleton-Mississippi Mills maverick Jack MacLaren is supporting Hudak.

The September Tory leadership refugees hope to crash was set to be a key policy convention, crucial to the party platform. The lesson many Tory insiders are taking from the byelections is that voters are moving to the centre-left and they want their platform massaged away from some of the hard-right policies they'd mulled earlier. Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, who was portrayed in earlier reports, as supporting the leadership review, says he backs his leader. He says it's "grossly unfair" to suggest he's running for the leadership or is undermining Hudak.

The member, the general will release a report on the costs associated with running a Ontario premier plant. Liberals might well decide to pull themselves early to themselves more embarrassment. Liberals have their own organizational problems as demonstrated in the byelections.

The only party sitting pretty is the NDP.

Now that's a scary thought.

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■ COLUMN

With age should come respect



WILLIAM THOMAS

HUMOUR

Recently I had a birthday and I'd like to take a moment to thank the readers who took the time to send me a note or a card, all expressing some very sincere cheap shots.

The "I respect you, as I do all my elders" from the retired teacher was not the lowest blow I took, but one of the few that was printable.

And "A wise man once said don't count your years, make your year count."

Doesn't anybody buy nice birthday cards anymore? At what point did the publishers of birthday cards decide that they should convey a message sure to make you feel lower than the flat tire on a pick-up truck in a country and western song? It's like the Hallmark card with the line Hallmark was a victim of a hostile takeover by the Don Rickles Corporation. And as insults go, they're very expensive.

I had a lousy birthday, thank you. I received a cake with a glob of smoldering twigs on top, mainly because my buddy John Grant had a birthday only a few weeks earlier, depleting the world supply of wax.

(Please when it comes to delivering the cheap shots, leave it to a licensed professional.)

I never thought of myself as old until I was sitting on my breakfast one evening at sunset, having a drink with a friend when she said, innocently enough, "It's going to be dark soon."

To which I said, enthusiastically, "Yeah, it'll be a good night for sleeping."

Then I quickly jerked my head around to see who the dork was that said that.

A good night for sleeping?! Old people say things like that.

People named Sully and Myrtle whose lives revolve around a sweet taste say things like that. These are people who overuse the word my, as in "I gotta have my morning coffee" and "I gotta get my eight hours." It wasn't that long ago that a good night for me was when I got home too late to

do any sleeping. Now here I am at sunset, looking forward to eight or nine hours of unconsciousness, like it might be a lot of fun.

I must admit, kind of like reading a book a few hours later and pulled myself out of the hours. This actually happened. I had smoked a turkey all day, but when the guests arrived around eight, the butterball still wasn't done. So the cocktail hour stretched to two and I was out by the shed, feeding hickory sticks into the smoker, whereupon the women came by and asked, "Is your mind if I take a peek at the bird?"

"Hey c'mon! I hardly know you" I said and I felt so wonderfully young and immature again. Hey, you can find new friends anywhere, even at the bus station. But how often do you get a chance to relieve myself of ill-spent youth?

As you might have guessed, I've reached an attitude plateau in my life, a crossroads of the currents of age. And I'm very frustrated, like a centipede with athlete's foot or a beaver with gingivitis.

I'm definitely too old to be a smart-ass. Taking flying leaps at rolling doughnuts is a job for someone younger, somebody who doesn't have to ice his lower back every time he chases a Jehovah's Witness down the driveway.

By definition, I'm not sure I've made it to curmudgeon yet. To be a real curmudgeon, you have to impersonate the late Andy Rooney, growling and lowing at anybody under fifty and calling them names like you irregular. Andy delivering his Whitney rant on 60 Minutes always looked like his shorts were way too tight.

I'm like this close to walking into a room and forgetting why I

did so.

There was a time when I believed I'd take my life before I started a sentence with "Why, when you're your age, Mr. . . ." but I'm there now, and I'll tell ya; yeah, when I was your age kid, I knew the basic theory behind the baseball cap. It was invented as a practical head shield designed with the peak to be worn in the front to keep the sun out of your eyes and the bird droppings off your nose. Back then you only wore ball caps if you wanted to make a catcher's mask fit.

Why when I was your age kid, I wore my clothes a little loose for comfort. But today you kids wear your clothes baggy it looks like you're trying to conceal gross and unsightly things, namely other kids.

When we mowed people back then, it was intentional not some unfortunate wardrobe malfunction.

And colours? You kids are wearing clothes so bright you're giving your parents acid flashbacks. Sure we wore tie-dye and psychedelic colour when I was a kid, but we also smoked dope and ate us up. We never had to hide what we looked like.

Hey! You think you're hip? You don't know hip until you're talking the benefits of titanium versus ceramic.

And kid, do not sass me when I yell "Hey! Get off my lawn!" So what if we're both standing side-by-side buying Slurpees at 7-Eleven. I'm old. Show me some respect.

I wouldn't say my advancing age has suddenly changed my perspective on kids, but I'm not even speaking to my niece and nephew.

For years, they came to me with questions of history, which I answered eagerly, assuming their mother had told them I'd major in the subject.

Now I find out they knew the answers all along - they just wanted to hear from an eyewitness.

www.williamthomas.ca

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Agreeing with Rankin

Just a few words in regard to two recent letters to the editor re: Mr. Tom Rankin's presentation at the August Regional Council meeting. In his letter, Mr. Rankin denied Mr. Rankin's assumption that the anti-wind farm lobby is just "a few naysayers". When put into perspective, Mr. Rankin is spot on. The wind farm opponents will publicize the fact that they attract 100 to 150 supporters at their meetings and demonstrations. At these meetings the Windfrees group is joined by supporters from West Lincoln and visa versa. With a population of 6,356 (2011 census), and even if all of the 150 people are from Windfrees, that works out to 2.5% of the population, hardly a rounding ground-swell of 1,000 strong. Even if you take into consideration the fact the census includes everyone

in a household and take that number and divide it by four (the average number of people in a household) and assuming that each person in the household cares, that percentage goes to 9%, still not an overwhelming majority. In the case of West Lincoln, the percentages are drastically lower at 1%, and 5%, respectively. Given these numbers, it tells me that more than 90% of the population is in favour of wind farms, or just doesn't care one way or the other.

Another point put forward by the other correspondent had to with the fact these gigantic blades will need replacement. That may be so in 30 or 60 years, although I doubt it. If you consider the fact there were WWII-era airplanes still flying that were built from the aluminum of the

see LETTERS | page 6

day, and consider the improvement in the quality of the aluminum of today and the protective coating applied to the blades of the turbines, I would expect the lifetime of a few naysayers. As to the "tons of fossil fuels" needed to locate them, that would be true only if the developers were using coal for the roadbeds, which I doubt they are doing. If she is referring to the energy used for manufacture and transport, that is a small amount of fossil fuels. If used elsewhere, would not generate 0.001% of the energy generated by one wind turbine over its lifetime. And as far as mass exodus by families leaving their beloved homes, I have yet to see any abandoned homes in the vicinity of any wind turbine farms built to date.

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Reader questions blackout anniversary story

FROM PAGE 5

As far as getting involved and doing the research, I have, but

I haven't based my opinion on subscriber sites such as Wikipedia, where anyone can submit statistics

without proof of authenticity.

Jim Bray
Port Colborne

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On blackouts and cement

I often wonder at the way the media loves to sensationalize news, especially their front page with? However, the "celebration" of the 2003 blackout on the front page of Welland Tribune recently actually highlights the misinformation contained in the "good news" story on an inside page Concrete company considering Port. The site for this concrete factory has been "cel-ebrated" in the news as a site promoted as a green-storehouse to be the Vale Sports Centre was opened.

Whatever happened to that? At the same time a story also covered by this newspaper?

And the connection between the blackout and concrete stories? The foreign-owned concrete company wants to make concrete bases for industrial wells that are needed many thousands of tons of concrete can any community continue to dump across rural Ontario whilst still maintaining any belief in being environmentally friendly or of supporting the concept of Niagara as the "Green capital of Canada?"

One of the first actions of the recently appointed Ministry of Energy in the U.K. was to impose a

moratorium on any future onshore industrial wind energy project in the U.K.

A recent report regarding Europe's growing disenchantment with wind (and solar) energy should be required reading for all of our municipal politicians because they commit to much more of our tax dollars, through subsidies, to industries that are seen to be a huge economic disaster throughout Europe without a single environmental or energy benefit in return.

Europe now has a new and growing group of citizens living in "energy poverty". More and more households are forced to go without to pay their hydro bills. There are countries refusing to buy cheap excess wind energy from neighbours because the unreliability negatively affects their own energy supplies. Energy rationing, brownouts and even blackouts are no longer a question of when in parts of Europe, rather a question of how soon.

Ontario's green energy policies have already given our children an economic and environmental nightmare they will have to fix. It makes no sense to continue to add to it.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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Local Bands

■ PUBLIC SAFETY: Raises to be given out in increments

Regional police receive three-year deal

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Regional Police will receive three years of raises step by step in the first year of a first negotiated contract since 2004.

A new three-year contract was ratified by the Niagara Police Services Board and Niagara Region Police Association Aug. 8 and 15 respectively. Police in Niagara will get a 2.6% raise this

year and 2.5% in 2014 and 2015. But it will be broken into six-month intervals to help Niagara Region save money.

"There was momentum on both sides to move forward to finalize a fair and equitable contract for our members," said police association president Cliff Priest.

He said the contract was welcome because it's only the second time this decade the board and the union have been

able to negotiate a deal. The last contract went to an arbitrator.

"Mr. [the] member is very pleased that we were able, for once, to negotiate a contract instead of going to arbitration," he said, noting arbitration

is pricey on all sides.

The new contract affects 697 uniform members and 301 civilian members of the police service.

Policeman Henry D'Angela said the contract allows for cross-district deployment. That means if one of Niagara's police districts is short an officer, another can be transferred from a different district, avoiding the need to call someone to work overtime.

He said the split raises will save the Region money. Officers will get 1.4% retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year, 1.2% retroactive to July 1, 1.4% in January 2014, 1.1% in July 2014, 1.3% in January 2015 and 1.2% in July 2015.

"It's the lowest that we've seen it in years. We're quite pleased to

get it to that situation," D'Angela said.

He said the board was glad not to go to arbitration.

"We just didn't want to head down that road after an arbitrated settlement just a couple of months ago."

Arguing the previous arbitration, he said, cost the board \$400,000.

"At the end of the day, these numbers are really reasonable compared to what's out there," D'Angela said.

He said the contract brings Niagara police closer to wage parity with their peers in other jurisdictions.

"We're still not there," he said. D'Angela said, "When you do look at some of the other numbers that have come in, ours are a little lower. We're quite pleased with that."

jeff.bolichowski@qurmedia.ca
Twitter: @JeffB_Standard



Priest



D'Angela

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■ LIVING HISTORY: Tree in Pelham

Comfort Maple is older than Canada

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — The maple tree is an iconic piece of Canadians, and Pelham is home to the oldest living maple tree in the country.

At 500 years old, the Comfort Maple is a sugar maple tree that stands more than 30 metres and is around four metres in circumference.

But, it's a well-hidden behemoth.

It's nestled between three farm fields and the only access to it is a small gravel lane off of Metler Rd., between Balfour St. and Centre St.

Niagara Region Conservation Authority director of communications Mary Stack said despite its easily-missed location, thousands of people from all over the world seek it out yearly.

"It's a must-see at night," she said. "People come here to get their wedding photographs taken, have picnics, and kids come to hug it. It's really neat thing."

Stack admits there's no proof of the tree's real age. In 1975, the tree's age was estimated by judging its height and circumference.

"They didn't want to dig into the tree because they might damage it

and they didn't want to risk that," she said.

The tree has been through a lot in its lifetime. In the 1960s, it was struck by lightning and split down the middle. A company used concrete blocks to successfully stabilize half the tree.

"If this tree could talk, the stories it could tell you," Stack said.

Today the tree is healthy and continues to grow and change with the seasons. Many of its branches are held up with metal wire to ensure they don't fall off, but it doesn't take much to maintain the tree.

Stack said that conservation



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Director of communications for the Niagara Conservation Authority Mary Stack makes the giant The Comfort Maple in Pelham look small.

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thing is in order and the tree has enough water. They'll also stop by when bad storms are expected or happening.

The Comfort family gave the tree and the land it's on to the conservation authority in 1961 because, Stack said, they knew the tree was special. The land was originally crown land given to Laura Secord's family, who sold it to the Comforts in 1816.

The Comforts still hold family reunions there.



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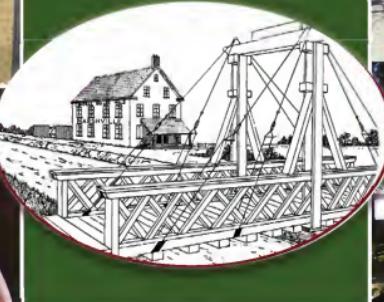
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IN BRIEF

DRUGS SEIZED

PORTE COLBORNE — Niagara Regional Police found two guns and illegal substances with an estimated street value of more than \$10,000 Sunday.

Police responded to a call on Killay St. E. and arrested a 25-year-old man. They investigated further and a

search warrant was issued.

Police said they found methamphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$9,000, marijuana with an estimated street value of \$900, a .22-calibre rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun.

Robert Gagne is charged with assault with a weapon and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.



AARON BOGGIO
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHm



LARRY BOGGIO
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHm,(owner)

Ask Our Pharmacists RINGWORM

Ringworm is a common name for fungal skin infections. These types of infections are also referred to as tinea. They affect approximately 10% to 20% of the population. Ringworm appears as rings or round red patches with clear centers and red, scaly borders. Tinea can affect the scalp, nails, or skin.

Management for superficial fungal infections involves some simple non-drug methods, and over-the-counter remedies in the form of sprays, lotions and creams. Affected individuals should try to reduce moisture in the affected area. Loose-fitting clothing made of cotton or material that absorbs moisture should be worn. The skin should be dried completely before covering with clothing. If the infection involves the feet, flip flops should be worn with bare feet to prevent spread to others and reinfection.

There are also many topical antifungal agents available. Examples include CANESTEN CREAM (clotrimazole), NIZORAL SHAMPOO (ketocconazole), and MONISTAT-DERM (miconazole), to name a few. Creams and solutions are useful because they can be rubbed into the area. Solutions work in hairy areas because they are easier to apply. Powders can serve as useful alternatives to creams and solutions. They are helpful when the infection is wet or oozing, or where a drying agent is needed. When applying the antifungal product it should be applied to the lesion as well as one to two inches around the lesion. The antifungal should also be used for one to two weeks after lesions clear to reduce the rate of recurrence.

Patients who have diabetes, or those who are immunosuppressed may need prescription oral therapy. It is best for your doctor to assess these fungal infections. Fungal infections of the nail are also resistant to over-the-counter treatment.

There are some home remedies for treating nail fungus. Patients have tried applying VICS VAPORUB and tea tree oil. There is not a lot of evidence to suggest the efficacy of these products for this condition, however some people may wish to try them before resorting to oral medication.

If you think you may be affected by a fungal infection there are a number of treatment options available. Most issues can be resolved with some persistence and the proper product. Please speak to your pharmacist about what option is best for you.

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Nominations being sought for Welland Arts and Culture Awards in September

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Has a local artist ever left you in awe?

Do you know someone whose talent shines brightly in the community?

The City of Welland is hosting its third annual Arts and Culture Awards on Sunday, Sept. 29 and is seeking nominees.

Nominations have been open for more than a month and no entries have been received.

"These awards, even though they're relatively new, are important to the community because they recognize the arts and culture in Welland," said arts and culture co-ordinator Jessica Duliban.

"There are a lot of very talented people in Welland who should be rewarded."

The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 10 p.m. Applications are available from and may be dropped off at Welland Community Wellness Complex. They are also available at

Welland Civic Square and at www.welland.ca.

For more information, call Duliban at 905-735-1700, ext. 4012.

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VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Douglas Carter's upcycled art will be on display in The Boat Show III at Arts Place Gallery on King St. in Port Colborne until September 15.

Found items made into art

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Douglas Carter collects odd and discarded items.

He can't stop. Everywhere he goes he finds something he needs to take home.

Refective items are the best.

"I like adding them to wall pieces," he said. "There's nothing like a broken CD to cast light all around the room."

The Port Colborne artist upcycles things he finds on the beach, on the streets and anywhere else. He assembles them into

both flat pieces and sculptures.

His latest collection, called The Boat Show III, is on display at Arts Place Gallery, 714 King St. until Saturday, September 15.

The official opening of the show takes place at the gallery on Sunday, August 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

"For this project I decided to interpret what I was seeing through found materials — beach debris and paint," he said.

see ART page 17

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ART

Living in Port Colborne provides artist with plenty of inspiration

FROM PAGE 16

He said the visual impact of living in the lakeside city has influenced his art and given him a lot of inspiration.

"You can hear and see the boats go by most of the year and it's just great," he said.

It took him three years to gather the cultural debris nec-

essary to complete the show, but the finished gallery has about eight boat sculptures and more than 10 paintings.

He likes to put his pieces

outside when they are complete and leaves them there for a few months to give them a more authentic feel.

"It gets rid of the shine and

newness of the paint. It goes with the material better."

He's intentionally keeping the price of his work down so more people can afford to own

original art.

"I'd rather be in someone's home or studio than sitting in my studio — or rather my garage," he said.

In The NEWS

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■ SHOWBOAT: Lighthouse Theatre

Local theatre is important

ALLISON SMITH
For The Tribune

PORT COBORNE
— Showboat Festival Theatre may have a glimmer of hope in Port Dover's Lighthouse Theatre.

A push is on to make sure the community theatre in Port Colborne is around for current and future arts lovers to enjoy. Port Dover's Lighthouse Festival Theatre is bringing four of its six plays of the 2013 season to Showboat.

"We're treating Showboat like the sister theatre to Lighthouse," said Derek Ritschel, artistic director at Lighthouse. The theatres' boards of directors have aligned and Lighthouse's management board is operating Showboat in April. It will share its resources and actors with Showboat in an effort

to breathe new life into the theatre.

In fall of 2012, Showboat Festival Theatre's board of directors announced the 250-seat theatre, which is housed at Roselawn Centre, would cease operations due to financial difficulties.

Ritschel and his colleagues were sad to hear of Showboat's impending closure. Community theatres across Canada are folding. Showboat is one of only 25 professional summer theatres in Ontario.

Local theatres are an important part of the fabric of a community, he said, adding he hopes to help save the theatre and preserve a piece of Ontario's artistic history.

Allied involvement in the partnership between the two theatres began when William Thomas, creator



ALLISON SMITH Tribune Photo
Derek Ritschel, artistic director of Port Dover's Lighthouse Festival Theatre, poses outside Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne.

and host of the popular Readings at the Roselawn, called to request he take a

look at the theatre and its financial condition. Ritschel and his business partner,

administrative director Helen Wagenaar, were eager to offer their assistance.

"We wanted to see, can we do this? Can we save the theatre?" said Ritschel. "We feel passing it over is not right. It was worth the risk."

Lighthouse is known as Ontario's leading summer stock theatre and has seen great success in Port Dover. The 350-seat theatre welcomes just under 4,000 people annually to its shows.

The partnership is yielding great creative opportunities and will give Ritschel and his fellow artists the chance to explore and expand their potential. There are what he calls "real creative opportunities" — Showboat Theatre boasts an intimate, smaller stage than Lighthouse's — but he said he's excited to "figure out new and interesting ways to make it work."

see THEATRE | page 19

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THEATRE

Director confident Showboat will be successful

FROM PAGE 18

Ritschel is confident that Lighthouse's formula for success can rejuvenate Showboat.

"At Lighthouse, we know who is the most important part of the equation for that theatre. That's the audience. We're always listening to our audience, always adapting, always focusing on their entertainment."

Lighthouse is proudly

Canadian — its playwrights, actors, designers and technicians hail from across the country. Showboat has previously had an international playbill but will now showcase Canadian work.

"At Lighthouse, we know

their local theatre.

So far, the revitalization of Showboat is receiving an enthusiastic response from the community. Two comedies started the season. Henry & Alice: Into the Wild, written by David Lomax, launched the season in June, followed by Sarah Quicke's Knockers! A Brief Comedy in July.

The next plays to welcome audiences to Showboat will include The 39 Steps, an adventure comedy and clas-

sic Canadian spy tale by playwright Patrick Barlow that starts on August 18, and On A First Name Basis, a comedy by Canada's most-produced playwright, Norm Foster, that starts August 25.

From June to August, while Lighthouse's stretches from May to September, two plays including Dear Johnny Deens and You Give Me Fever will not run on Showboat's stage. But he's confident that the four

coming to Port Colborne this season will be crowd pleasers.

Ritschel shares the credit for Lighthouse's success with his colleagues and the artists who bring the plays to life.

"People really do appreciate what artists do. I think they always did," he said. "The feeling you get from the audience is a sense of pride in their theatre. They love this place."

He added that feeling is one of the most rewarding for

Lighthouse management, and that Port Colborne's audience base is knowledgeable and savvy.

Subscriptions consist of one ticket per show and cost \$100, while single tickets are \$35, \$30, \$25, \$20 for matinee performances, and \$25 for students and groups. They can be purchased at the box office at 296 Fielden Avenue in Port Colborne or by contacting the theatre at 905-834-0833.

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■ REUNION

The good old days at The Cove

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — The Cove is still alive in the hearts of Niagara's love children.

A fire destroyed the home away from home Aug. 31, 1970, but many of the Long Beach night club's patrons have never forgotten the fun and times they had there.

Gary Reeves, the club's former owner, said many people talk about the club like they had listened to a band there the night before.

"It was a real happening place," he said. "The kids

loved it and a lot of marriages came out of there, too. Canadians marrying Americans and so on. There were a lot of memories. I think the kids were more upset when it burned down than we were. They were devastated."

On the 40th anniversary of the fire, Reeves and Joe White want the old Cove gang to reunite for a night of music and laughter at Rockin' at the Cove at the Crystal Ridge Centre in Ridgeway on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Reeves bought the night club in 1966 and spent months working 20 hours

fixing up the building that used to be a ballroom dance club, called the Long Beach Ball Room.

Reeves, then 30-years-old, worked at Atlas Steel from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. then fixed up the ballroom on the weekend to turn it into a nautical themed masterpiece.

"We had it all," he said. "We had fish nets on the walls and a raised dance floor and the nets that hung down on the dance floor were painted fluorescent so they glowed in the black light."

The club attracted bands like, Guess Who, Spencer Davis, Magic Circus and

more.

The Guess Who played the Cove several times and once told Reeves he had "the grooviest place in Canada."

"The kids had a lot of fun, but we ran a tight ship," he said.

Reeves went to great lengths to ensure the club was drug and gang free, so patrons would be safe.

A Guess Who cover band, Nut Sugar Tonight, will headline the reunion show with The British Invasion Band. Reeves will be there sharing his memories of the bar and looking forward to hearing patrons stories.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Gary Reeves is getting The Cove's old gang together for a night of fun and memories.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$20 and are available at the Country Kettle and Grill Restaurant in Port Colborne, phone at 905-325-5704.

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SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Five skaters from the Niagara Centre Skating Club competed at the Skating Club of Western New York. Pictured from left are skaters Christy Mengemann, Meaghan Good, Caitlyn Bergeron, Coranne McKinnion and Jillian Nadeau.

■ FIGURE SKATING

Skaters receive top honours

InPort New Staff

WELLAND — Five skaters from the Niagara Centre Skating Club returned from competition held recently at the Skating Club of Western New York with a handful of honours.

Caitlyn Bergeron took top honours with first place in spins, jumps, compulsory move and footwork.

Coranne McKinnion also

earned first in compulsory moves, and took third in spins.

Daley Good earned second in compulsory moves and jumps and took fifth in group.

Christy Mengemann earned second place in spins, third place in jumps and fifth in group competition.

The five Niagara skaters earned 11 out of 42 club points.

The winter session is gearing up at the Niagara Centre club and will be holding its first session at Aug. 24 at the Pelham arena from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Aug. 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Port Colborne Arena and Sept. 14 at the Welland Community Wellness Complex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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